

## CLAIMS

1. A floor care appliance, comprising:
  - a suction nozzle;
  - a dirt collecting container;
  - 5 a filter member located in the dirt collecting container, said filter member having an interior being divided radially into equally sized elongated portions;
  - a valve located adjacent one end of said filter member for allowing suction to be applied to selected portions of said elongated portions;
  - 10 an apparatus for rotating said filter so that said one end of said filter rotates past said valve; and
  - a port located in said valve for allowing atmospheric air to enter one of said elongated portions of said filter when said elongated portion is rotated in front of said port and such that in one full revolution of said filter every one of said elongated portions is rotated past said port.
- 15 2. The floor care appliance of claim 1, wherein said apparatus for rotating said filter is a member of the group consisting of electric motor and air turbine.
3. The floor care appliance of claim 1, wherein atmospheric air entering said elongated portion flows through said elongated portion of said filter and through the filter wall into said dirt container to remove any dust cake buildup on outer surface 20 of said filter wall.

4. A method of cleaning a filtration system, comprising:

providing a container;

providing a filter member having an interior being divided radially into equally sized elongated portions in said container;

5 providing a valve located adjacent one end of said filter member so that suction is applied to selected elongated portions of said filter member;

providing a port in said valve open to the atmosphere;

rotating said filter member so that one end of said filter member is rotated past said port so that atmospheric air is allowed to enter one of said equally sized

10 elongated portions of said filter when said equally sized elongated portion is rotated in alignment with said port and such that in one full revolution of said filter every one of said equally sized elongated portions is rotated past said port.

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